REMARKS

Claims 8 through 20 were presented for examination in the present application. The present amendment adds new claims 21 through 24. Thus, claims 8 through 24 are presented for consideration.

The specification was objected to. The specification has been amended accordingly. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 through 20 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 12 of U.S. Patent No. 7,081,689.

Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321 thereby rendering the double patenting rejections moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 8 through 20 are respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, and 14 through 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 9 and 14 through 16 have been amended thereby rendering the rejections to claims 9, and 14 through 16 moot. Claim 10 depends from independent claim 9 and, thus, the rejection to claim 10 is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 9, 10, and 14 through 16 are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 through 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 0 635

639 A1 ("EU '639") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,078,739 ("Weinrich").

Independent claim 8 recites "A drive train for the transmission of a variable power at a variable input speed for a power generating station having a turbomachine, the drive train comprising: a power-split transmission for distributing power to at least one first power branch and at least one second power branch, the first power branch driving an electric generator via a hydrodynamic circuit... wherein the hydrodynamic circuit controls power flow so that a speed at which the electric generator is driven is substantially constant (emphasis added)".

The Office Action acknowledges "EU '639 lacks... Wherein the hydrodynamic converter controls power flow so that a speed at which the electric generator is driven is substantially constant". See, pg. 5, lines 6 - 11.

However, the Office Action erroneously concludes that "Weinrich... teaches a transmission comprising:...Wherein the hydrodynamic converter is capable of controlling power flow so that a speed at which the electric generator is driven is substantially constant (emphasis added)". See, pg. 6, lines 1 - 13. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Weinrich discloses "a specially designed hydraulic torque convertor which has certain performance characteristics which make it particularly adaptable for use with a power and torque splitting differential gear set and to provide a power-shunt transmission embodying such a torque converter by which the entire unit becomes a highly efficient automotive transmission".

See, col. 1, lines 62 - 69.

Applicant respectfully submits that there is simply nothing in Weinrich that discloses or suggest that the hydrodynamic torque convertor is capable of controlling power flow so that a speed at which the electric generator is driven is substantially constant. The Office Action's assertion is unfounded and cannot be substantiated. In fact, the Office Action does not point to any specific disclosure in Weinrich in arriving at this conclusion.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the hydrodynamic converter recited by claim 8. Claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claims 9 and 10 depend from independent claim 8 and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 8.

Independent claim 11 recites "A drive train for the transmission of a variable power at a variable input speed for a power generating station driven with a turbomachine, the drive train comprising: a power-split transmission having an input shaft, at least one first power branch, and at least one second power branch, wherein the first power branch drives an electric generator, wherein the second power branch is connected to the input shaft and feeds back reactive power to the power-split transmission via a hydrodynamic circuit arranged in the second power branch, and wherein reactive power flow in the second power branch is controlled so that a speed at which the electric generator is driven is substantially constant (emphasis added)".

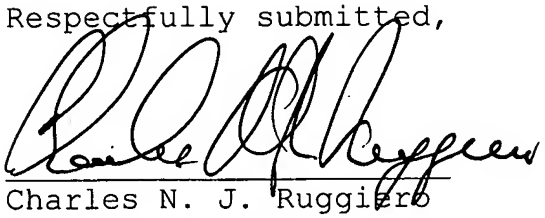
As previously stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the hydrodynamic converter recited by claim 11. Claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Claims 12 through 20 depend from independent claim 11 and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 11.

New claims 21 through 24 have been added to point out various aspects of the present application. It is believed that new claims 21 through 24 are in a condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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